

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/747,660

Examiner

Gentle E Winter

Applicant(s)

SMITH ET AL.

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/26/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 32, and 33, (renumbered as 1-11).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 December 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112-Withdrawn

1. Claims 1-5, 8-12, 15-19, 31-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling, because the claims were deemed to lack any biased structure or other centrifugally operative structure.
2. In a prior action, then pending claims 1-5, 8-12, and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,788,994 to Shinbara. Applicant argued that the rotary plate of Shinbara did not slide between an up position and a down position resulting from centrifugal gravity.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
4. United States Patent No. 4,788,994 to Shinbara fails to teach each and every limitation of the instant invention. Specifically, the rotary plate of Shinbara does not slide between a first and second position resulting from centrifugal gravity, which is disclosed as an essential element of claimed invention, as described in claims 1, 8, 15, 32, and 33.
5. Further, while the prior art, in the aggregate, appears to teach each and every element of the invention, as claimed, the references fail to provide the requisite motivation for making the instantly claimed combination. For the foregoing reasons, and others, claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 32, and 33, renumbered as 1-11, are believed to recite patentable subject matter.
6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gentle E. Winter whose telephone number is 571-272-1310. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7AM-4PM.
8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.
9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Questions on access to the Private PAIR system should be directed to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gentle E. Winter
Examiner
Art Unit 1746


ALEXANDER MARKOFF
PRIMARY EXAMINER